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SCIENCE

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ADDRESS AT THE DEDICATION OF THE MITCHELL MEMORIAL BUILDING OF THE PHILADELPHIA ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL AND INFIRMARY FOR NERVOUS DISEASES¹

OBSERVE the title of the building we are assembled to dedicate—the Mitchell Memorial Building of the Philadelphia Orthopaedic Hospital and Infirmary for Nervous Diseases. It is not the *S. Weir* Mitchell or the *Weir* Mitchell Memorial, but simply the "*Mitchell Memorial*" Building.² As there are many Franklins but only one Franklin, so there are many Mitchells but only one Mitchell.

I first saw Weir Mitchell on the third of September, 1860, just as I was beginning the arduous study which has filled a long life time. The last time I saw him was at Christmas time in 1913, just before the shadow of death fell upon him. The interval covered fifty-three years and four months—a long time for an intimate friendship which never knew a cloud even as big as a man's hand.

He was my senior by only eight years, but, having graduated ten years before I began even to study medicine and having already an established reputation, I always looked up to him as my father in the profession rather than as an elder brother.

I first aided him in his experiments on the poison of snakes—a study which for almost half a century fascinated him and to which he, first alone, and later with

¹ By Dr. W. W. Keen, consulting surgeon to the hospital.

² This was the name then on the new building. Later it was replaced by the "*Silas Weir Mitchell Memorial*."